a) defining a relational abstraction of a data store, the definition including a plurality of views, scalar or aggregate fields associated with the views, and relations between the views; and

b) generating a report that includes at least one drill link associated with a sequence of zero or more relations originating at a base view of the relational abstraction.

2. A method of claim 1 wherein the report is in a well recognized format.

3. A method of claim 2 wherein the report format is HyperText Markup Language (HTML).

4. A method of claim 2 wherein the report format is Dynamic HyperText Markup Language (DHTML).

5. A method of claim 2 wherein the report format is eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

6. A method of claim 2 wherein the report format is Portable Document Format (PDF).

7. A method of claim 2 wherein the report format is Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG).

8. A method of claim 1 wherein the drill link includes additional information.

9. A method of claim 8 wherein the drill link includes a reference to a second report.

10. A method of claim 8 wherein the drill link includes a reference to an object not associated with the relational abstraction.

11. A method of claim 10 wherein the drill link includes a reference to a computer program.

12. A method of claim 8 wherein the drill link includes a reference to the report that includes the drill link.

13. A method of claim 8 wherein the drill link includes a reference to the context of the drill link within the report.

14. A method of claim 8 wherein the drill link includes key values identifying a particular value within the report.

15. A method of claim 1 wherein the drill link is additionally associated with an object of the relational abstraction whose base view is the destination view of the last relation in the sequence.

16. A method of claim 15 wherein the object is a scalar field.

17. A method of claim 15 wherein the object is an aggregate field.

18. A method of claim 1 wherein the drill link includes a reference to an object that is based upon at least one object of the relational abstraction whose base view is the destination view of the last relation in the sequence.

19. A method of claim 18 wherein the reference is to a report template.

20. A method of claim 18 wherein the reference is to an expression.

21. A method for following drill links in a report, comprising the steps of:

a)   defining a relational abstraction of a data store, the definition including a plurality of views, scalar or aggregate fields associated with the views, and relations between the views;

b)   displaying a first report containing at least one drill link associated with a sequence of zero or more relations originating at a base view of the relational abstraction;

c)   upon selection of the drill link, extracting information associated with the drill link; and

d)   generating a second report using the extracted information.

22. A method of claim 21 wherein the extracted information includes a reference to a scalar field.

23. A method of 21 wherein the extracted information includes a reference to an aggregate field.

24. A method of 21 wherein the extracted information includes a reference to an expression.

25. A method of 21 wherein the extracted information includes a reference to a report template.

26. A method of 21 wherein the extracted information includes a reference to another report.

27. A method of claim 25 wherein a plurality of templates are displayed for user selection.

28. A method of 21 wherein extracted information includes a reference to a relation.

29. A method of claim 21 wherein the extracted information includes a reference to the first report.

30. A method of claim 21 wherein the extracted information includes a reference to a dynamic web page for the second report.

31. A method of claim 21 wherein the extracted information includes a reference to the context of the drill link within the first report.

32. A method of claim 21 wherein the extracted information includes a reference to grouping key values identifying a particular value within the report.

33. A method of claim 21 wherein the extracted information is used to apply a filter on the second report.

34. A computer system for creating drill links in a report, the system comprising:

a) means for defining a relational abstraction of a data store, the definition including a plurality of views, scalar or aggregate fields associated with the views, and relations between the views; and

5   b) means for generating a report that includes at least one drill link associated with a sequence of zero or more relations originating at a base view of the relational abstraction.

35. A computer system for following drill links in a report, the system comprising:

a) means for defining a relational abstraction of a data store, the definition including a plurality of views, scalar or aggregate fields associated with the views, and relations

10   between the views;

b) means for displaying a first report containing at least one drill link associated with a sequence of zero or more relations originating at a base view of the relational abstraction;

c) upon selection of the drill link, means for extracting the information associated

15   with the drill link; and

d) means for generating a second report using the extracted information.